FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division
Attention: Mr. Robert L. Keuch
Director, FBI

June 7, 1978

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

Enclosed are the original and two copies of a memorandum responding in full to an HSCA request of May 11, 1978, which asks for [redacted] HSCA

The Committee is making this request at the FBI's suggestion in lieu of a request for all President John F. Kennedy assassination files in both Field Offices.

Several weeks ago, HSCA Staff Member Robert Genzman informally inquired regarding the feasibility of obtaining all assassination files from the FBI's Dallas and New Orleans Field Offices. He was then advised that the sheer volume of such files (approximately 406 volumes or 170,000 pages) would create a severe burden on the FBI to obtain, reproduce and process them for HSCA access or delivery.

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It was pointed out that such an undertaking should be approached with judicious consideration since, as the Department is aware, in a case such as the assassination of President Kennedy, all substantive information being reported and recorded by intra and interoffice communications was ultimately included in reports or communications furnished to FBI Headquarters (FBIHQ). The HSCA has already had access to or delivery of all such reporting from the FBIHQ files on the President John F. Kennedy and Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., assassinations. Furthermore, the HSCA has also received delivery of the Memphis Field Office files in the King assassination and these should amply demonstrate FBI reporting procedures. If the Committee has found anything to the contrary during a review of these files, it should, perhaps, be requested to identify such a specific instance in order to show cause why it requires review of the voluminous Field Office files pertaining to the assassination of President Kennedy.

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SEE NOTE PAGE 3.

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FBI/DOJ

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In order to assist the Committee, it has been suggested to Mr. Genzman that the Committee make this present request so that upon delivery of the preassassination documents, it might thoroughly analyze and compare the Field Office documents to the FBIHQ documents already furnished. By so doing, it should become apparent to the Committee that no substantive information bearing on the course or outcome of the Lee Harvey Oswald investigation was omitted from reports or communications ultimately directed to FBIHQ.

In addition, it has been suggested to Mr. Genzman that, once the HSCA has had ample opportunity to thoroughly digest the contents of the preassassination Field documents as compared to the FBIHQ documents, should it have further reservations about the type of information residing in Field Office files and not sent to FBIHQ, it might then consider requesting documents from the Dallas Field Office post-assassination files for a very narrow time frame. If this fails to satisfy Committee requirements and if you concur, the Committee would then be offered a copy of the Freedom of Information Act release on the Dallas Field Office President John F. Kennedy assassination files, which will be produced in response to a pending request from Mr. Harold Weisberg. However, it is estimated that at least 90 days will be required to process the Dallas Field Office files requested by Mr. Weisberg.

In short, an existing court order requires production of the Dallas and New Orleans Field Office files for Mr. Weisberg. Absent a compelling reason not presently in evidence, it is felt that a Committee request for a separate production of all Dallas and New Orleans Field Office files would create an undue burden on the FBI's already strained resources in this area and should be resisted strenuously.

You are requested to furnish a copy of the memorandum to the HSCA.

Enclosures (3)

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NOTE: This response had been coordinated with the Freedom of Information - Privacy Act Branch and Legal Liaison and Congressional Affairs Unit, Legal Counsel Division. It is felt that this response should be used as a vehicle to acquaint Mr. Keuch with the HSCA's overtures toward obtaining the massive Dallas and New Orleans Field Office files. Upon review at FBIHQ, it was noted that no Serial 4 exists in the New Orleans file on Oswald. New Orleans airtel to FBIHQ, dated 5/12/78, captioned "Lee Harvey Oswald," advised that "there was a mistake in the original serialization of this file, and there is no serial numbered four."

Book delivered to HSCA on 6/17/78 JFK